

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/928,206

Examiner

David Q. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

LEUNG, SUI-HING

Art Unit

2681

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 07/07/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 6-8,10,16-18,20 and 23-26 (renumbered as 1-12, respectively).
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 10 August 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR

1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John P. Wagner, Jr. on 07/19/05.

3. Application has been amended as follows:

Claim 10: A method for automatically disabling an audible alarm in a cell phone, comprising:

providing a mobile radio frequency (RF) transmitter that can be unobtrusively mounted in a setting, said mobile RF transmitter having no RF receiver functionality;

transmitting a non-audible control signal as a directional RF signal from said mobile RF transmitter;

determining whether the cell phone has received the non-audible control signal;

automatically disabling the audible alarm when the non-audible mode or control signal is received;

automatically enabling a non-audible alarm to notify a user of an incoming call when the non-audible control signal is received;

disabling the audible alarm and activating the non-audible alarm for a fixed, pre-determined amount of time after the cell phone receives the directional RF signal; and

automatically reactivating the audible alarm and disabling the non-audible alarm after the fixed, pre-determined amount of time has elapsed.

Claim 20: An apparatus for automatically disabling an audible alarm in a cell phone, comprising:

a receiver for receiving a non-audible mode signal from a mobile RF transmitter that can be unobtrusively mounted in a setting, said mobile RF transmitter having no RF receiver functionality, which broadcasts a directional non-audible mode signal;

a speaker coupled to the receiver which generates an audible sound to notify a user of an incoming call;

a processor coupled to the speaker which automatically disables an audible alarm when the non-audible mode signal is received and which automatically enables a non-audible alarm to notify a user of any incoming calls when the non-audible mode signal is received;

wherein the processor disables the audible alarm and activates the non-audible alarm for a fixed, pre-determined amount of time after receiving the directional RF signal; and

wherein the processor automatically reactivates the audible alarm and disables the non-audible alarm after the fixed, pre-determined amount of time has elapsed.

Claims 4-5 have been cancelled.

Claims 14-15 have been cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 4-8,10,14-18,20 and 23-26 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

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Claims 10 and 20 are allowed because the closest prior art, Weber et al (US 6343212) in view of Kamel et al (US 6496531), either singularly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render obvious that providing a mobile radio frequency (RF) transmitter that can be unobtrusively mounted in a setting, said mobile RF transmitter having no RF receiver functionality, in combination with all other limitations in the claim(s) as defined by applicant.

Claims 4-8 and 23-24 depend on claim 10. Therefore, they are allowed.

Claims 14-18 and 25-26 depend on claim 20. Therefore, they are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David Q. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-7844. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JOSEPH H. FEILD can be reached on (571)272-4090. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DN

David Nguyen


JOSEPH FEILD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER